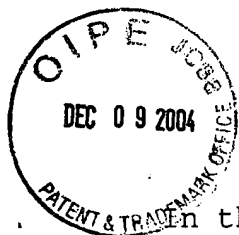


Ifw

Attorney Docket No: 47328



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the patent application of:

Stuart M. Nemser

Serial No.: 10/760, 169 Art Unit: 1724
Filed: January 16, 2004 Examiner: R. H. Spitzer
Title: CYCLIC MEMBRANE SEPARATION PROCESS
TRANSMITTAL LETTER

MS AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria VA 22313-1450

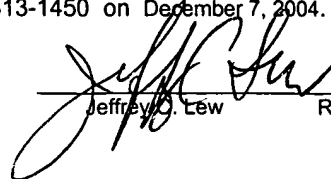
Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in connection with the above-identified patent application. Please also note the following:

(X) Applicant believes that fees for additional claims are not required as calculated below.

| | Previously Paid No. | After Amend- ment No. | Excess No. | Per Claim Fee \$ | Per Claim Fee Small Entity \$ | Fee Amount \$ |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Total Claims | 20 | 11 | 0 | 18.00 | 9.00 | 00.00 |
| Independent Claims | 3 | 2 | 0 | 84.00 | 42.00 | 00.00 |
| Multiple Dependent Claims | 0 | 0 | 0 | 280.00 | 140.00 | 00.00 |
| Total: | | | | | | 00. |

I hereby certify that this correspondence and the papers referred to herein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage prepaid as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to MS AMENDMENT the COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, PO BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA VA 22313-1450 on December 7, 2004.


Jeffrey C. Lew

Reg. No. 35,935

() Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time in accordance with 37 CFR §1.136(a). The appropriate fee required by 37 CFR §1.17 is calculated as shown below.

Fee amount due for an extension of

| | | Small Entity | | Other than Small Entity |
|----------|-----|-----------------|-----|----------------------------|
| 1 month | () | \$55.00 | () | \$110.00 |
| 2 months | () | 205.00 | () | 410.00 |
| 3 months | () | 465.00 | () | 930.00 |
| 4 months | () | 725.00 | () | 1450.00 |
| 5 months | () | 985.00 | () | 1970.00 |

() Please charge the above fee to Deposit Account No. 121211.

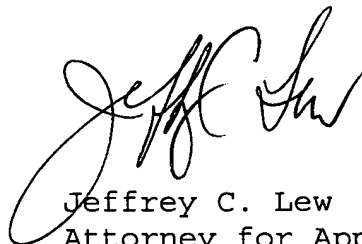
() A check in the amount of \$00.00 covering any required fees is enclosed.

(X) No fee payment is enclosed with this submission.

(X) In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to Deposit Account No. 121211 of the undersigned.

(X) A Postal Return card is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: December 7, 2004
2205 Silverside Road
Wilmington DE 19810
Facsimile: (302) 475-7915

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Attorney Docket No: 47328

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the patent application of:

Stuart M. Nemser

Serial No.: 10/760,169

Art Unit: 1724

Filed: January 16, 2004

Examiner: R. Spitzer

Title: CYCLIC MEMBRANE SEPARATION PROCESS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

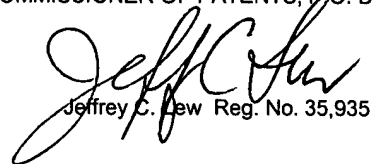
P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is being filed in response to the Official Action dated December 2, 2004, in connection with the above-identified patent application. Please enter the following amendments and reconsider the application in light of the accompanying remarks.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop AMENDMENT the COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA VA 22313-1450 on December 7, 2004.


Jeffrey C. Lew Reg. No. 35,935

Amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 12-24, as follows:

It is desirable to reduce overall emissions of VOC compounds below that which results from conventional separation membrane-based, fuel tank vapor recovery systems. In U.S. Patent 6,719,824 ~~Application No. 10/350,867, filed January 24, 2003,~~ there is disclosed a cyclic membrane separation process that is effective to reduce the time-averaged quantity of VOC compounds emitted to the environment. That process includes the steps of temporarily stopping flow to and from the membrane separator and adding a diluent gas, preferably ambient air, to the membrane separator while the flows are stopped. The diluent gas flows into the membrane separator via a blower or pressure gradient due to the typically slightly lower-than-ambient pressure in the system. The introduction of diluent air is thought to purge the membrane separator of excessive VOC such that the amount of VOC exhausted in the next cycle is lower. The present invention relates to a process for reducing VOC emissions in which excessive VOC is purged by drawing a vacuum on the membrane separator as will be more fully explained below.